

HOUSE BILL 2022

By Beck

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5;  
Title 6; Title 7; Title 9; Title 54; Title 55; Title 64  
and Title 65, relative to operation of mass transit  
systems on shoulders of highways and rights-of-  
way.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 54, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by  
adding the following as a new section:

(a) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the department of  
transportation may construct and operate a mass transit system on the shoulder of any  
highway or right-of-way on the state system of highways or the state system of interstate  
highways.

(b) The department may enter into a contractual arrangement with one (1) or  
more public transportation providers to operate the mass transit system.

(c) In constructing or operating, or causing to be constructed or operated, a  
mass transit system on the shoulder pursuant to this section, the department may:

(1) Consult with the federal highway administration regarding any federal  
review process needed to receive approval from the federal highway  
administration to implement the system;

(2) Identify sources of funding, including federal grants, for construction  
and operation of the system;

(3) Consult with, and request assistance from, metropolitan planning  
organizations and rural planning organizations for the region, local and regional

transit authorities, and the affected counties and cities located along the affected highway or right-of-way; and

(4) Establish procedures necessary for the safety of passengers on the system and in vehicles operating on the main traveled way of the adjacent highway or right-of-way, including establishing a maximum speed limit of the system, limiting the use of the shoulder during peak traffic periods, and installing signs indicating the shoulder is reserved for exclusive use by the system.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.